



October 13th, 2025

NW IA Dealer Agronomy Update

Soil Temperatures

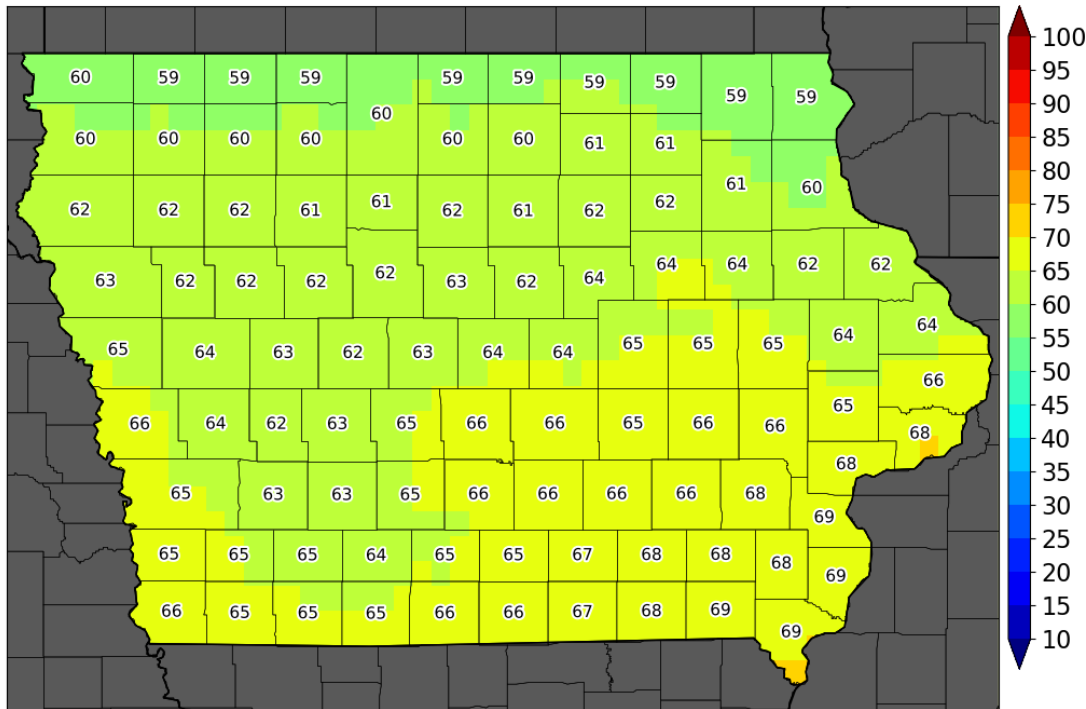
Soil temperatures have continued to hover around 60°F. Ideally NH₃ and manure applications should occur when soils are 50°F and trending cooler. Monitor your own county's soil temperatures at the ISU Mesonet site:

[IEM :: ISU Soil Moisture County Temperature Estimates \(iastate.edu\)](http://IEM::ISU Soil Moisture County Temperature Estimates (iastate.edu))



GFS Forecast Average ~4 inch Depth Soil Temperatures for Oct 13, 2025

Caution: Raw output average of 4 (6-hour) forecasts (6z-6z) valid for 0-10 cm depth. (2025-10-12T06:00:00Z)



Iowa Environmental Mesonet :: generated 12 October 2025 09:00 AM

data units :: °F

What's Making My Corn Turn Black??

Understanding Saprophytic Fungi on Corn

As the growing season progresses, many corn growers notice dark spots and discolorations on their plants. While some may worry about diseases like tar spot, it's important to recognize the role of saprophytic fungi and understand what these signs truly mean for crop health.

What Are Saprophytic Fungi?

Saprophytic fungi are organisms that decompose dead or decaying organic matter. They help by colonizing dead corn tissue and breaking it down into nutrients that can be reused by future crops. These fungi are not harmful to living plants, and in fact, they play a vital role in maintaining soil health and nutrient cycling.





Think of saprophytic fungi as helper organisms: by helping decompose crop residue, they facilitate the return of nutrients to the soil, making high-yield corn production possible. Without these natural recyclers, crop residue would build up between cropping years, and soil nitrogen and other nutrients would become less available for plant uptake.

What Causes Saprophytic Fungi to Occur in Corn Fields?

A vast number of fungal spores lie dormant in the soil and on crop residue – waiting for the right conditions to propagate. Favorable weather conditions, such as warmth, moisture, and foggy environments, can trigger these spores to multiply rapidly. During the grain fill period, as lower leaves begin to shut down, they create an ideal environment for saprophytic fungi to establish themselves. Interestingly, pathogenic leaf diseases often flourish at the same time as these saprophytic fungi appear. Some symptoms may look similar—causing concern for disease—so proper identification is key.

Differentiating Saprophytic Fungi from Tar Spot

For example, tar spot produces characteristic lesions on leaves with distinct sharp margins and does not come off easily when rubbed. In contrast, saprophytic fungi typically form fuzzy margins, can be rubbed off on clothing or paper, and may cause dark discolorations that look superficially similar but are harmless. When rubbed, these fungal colonies often turn your clothes black, indicating their surface-level, non-pathogenic nature.

2026 Crop Planning

As we prepare for the 2026 growing season, it is essential to remain vigilant about the potential presence of southern rust, among many other factors. Strategic planning for this season requires us to thoughtfully assess which corn products will be best suited for each specific farm. Given the unique conditions each year brings, it is crucial to select products that align with the characteristics of individual fields and cropping systems.

Maintain detailed records for each field over the years. Document all types of diseases and pests that have been observed, noting whether their presence has been heavy or light. Understanding these patterns allows you to choose varieties with appropriate disease tolerance or select traits that are well-suited for specific field conditions. This tailored approach can significantly enhance yield potential.

Engaging farmers in meaningful discussions is vital for making informed product placement decisions. Selecting the right corn product for the right acre can be an emotional and complex process, requiring careful consideration. Every producer aims to achieve the highest performance possible before planting their seed. Therefore, asking insightful questions and delving deep into the specifics of each farm is essential for success. Here are some important questions to consider when consulting with farmers during the planning phase of your recommendations:



- **What is the soil type, organic matter levels and pH values?** There are broad acre type fit products, those that handle lighter sandy soils better, and those that handle heavy soils that might be poorly drained. All germplasm is different, and each has its benefits, so choosing the right hybrid for the right acre is the first step.
- **What is your drainage on the field?** There are some corn products that handle drained soils better. If you have poorly drained soils, choose a product with good early plant vigor, great root strength, disease tolerance and good stalk health. We are working to generate better numerical ratings for Crown Rot.
- **What is the number of products you need and relative maturity?** Over the years, we have observed that later-maturing corn products tend to exhibit higher yield potential. It is crucial to consider the size of the operations, and opportunities for spreading maturities to help mitigate risk by allowing for harvesting at optimal moisture levels. This is essential for maximizing yield. Moreover, different operations may choose to manage the risks associated with hot, dry winds in the fall in various ways with one being RM choice.
- **What planting population do you typically plant?** There are factors that need to be accounted for when making the seeding rate recommendations. Certain products have fixed or flex ear characteristics which will help determine if you need a low to moderate or high seeding rate to achieve maximum yield potential. Also include discussions of increased fertilizer rates in high seeding rate zones and the benefit to yield.
- **What are your planting and harvest timelines?** Knowing whether fields are planned for early or later planting can determine if the seeding rate needs to be adjusted and the need to choose a product with a very good emergence rating. Increasing those seeding rates may be necessary if you are planting early into cool wet soils. Products with good emergence/vigor scores should be placed in fields that are scheduled for first planting. Forward thinking when developing a projected harvest plan and choosing a product that has good late season standability should be highly considered.
- **What is your rotation?** Corn-on-corn versus rotated acres is important when determining which traits to put out on the field. If corn-on-corn, choose a product with below ground traits for the billion-dollar pest – the corn rootworm – as well as one that has good emergence. If corn on corn, know the disease history of the field and choose a product with high tolerance to what may be out there overwintering. For rotated acres, choose above ground protection only – unless extended diapause has been present from the northern corn rootworm beetle in previous years. In that case, for peace of mind, selecting a below ground trait is ideal.
- **What is your row spacing?** If you are narrow-row planting, focus on products that have a little more up-right leaves or even shorter products to maximize yield potential.
- **What are your tillage practices?** Plant no-till acres with products that have great seedling vigor and a strong disease tolerance package.
- **What digital platforms do you currently utilize?** This is a super conversation to have to understand past performance. A digital platform, such as Climate FieldView®, allows you to visualize where the product fits best on which field.



• **What is your fertility and plant health programs?** There are products that, if managed right, can maximize yield potential. Some do like higher fertility, and some may also respond to added nitrogen. Some products just really like that extra management. If you want to push to that next yield tier, certain products may be a really good fit.

• **Any history of fungicide use and disease present? Pest pressure and insecticides used?** Know your disease pressure in your fields. With Goss' Wilt, for example, a product with high tolerance is a must for corn-on-corn. Fungicides are very beneficial agronomically with stalk integrity, ear retention and yield protection. Some products have shown a higher response than others in unlocking further yield potential. In addition to corn rootworm protection, select traits to defend against above ground pests, such as corn earworm or western bean cutworm.

• **What is your weed history and corn herbicide program?** If you are using glyphosate or Liberty herbicide, make sure your corn product has the gene for those herbicides. Some are tolerant to both and some are tolerant only tolerant to glyphosate. Knowing the chemical program will help prevent planting the wrong product. The weed history conversation is just a good one to have in general, as this can help you develop a chemical program based on a specific weed issue. Different herbicides target and are stronger on some weeds than others.

All of the upfront planning can pay high dividends at the end of the season for the grower. The success of the grower is everything.

Harvest Results

2025 Soybeans Individual Trial Report

Iowa - Cherokee County



Trial Averages

Yield
66.1
Moisture %
11.54
Gross Revenue
\$661

Field Information

Set Planting Date
05/08/2025
Harvest Date
10/01/2025
Tillage Type
No-Till
Previous Crop
Corn-Grain
Row Spacing
30.00 Inches
Irrigation
No
Number of Rows
8
Planting Rate
149000
Soil Texture

Entry Order	Product Brand	Product Name	Traits	Relative Maturity	Yield	Yield Rank	Moisture %	Gross Revenue	Gross Revenue Rank
1	ASGROW ®	AG19XF3	XF	1.9	69.2	3	9.20	\$692	3
2	ASGROW ®	AG20XF4	XF	2.0	65.5	6	10.20	\$655	6
3	ALLOY ®	A21E34	E3	2.1	57.1	12	10.00	\$571	12
4	ASGROW ®	AG22XF6	XF	2.2	64.4	10	9.50	\$644	10
5	PIONEER ®	P22A67E	E3	2.2	59.5	11	9.90	\$595	11
6	ASGROW ®	AG23XF3	XF	2.3	65.5	6	9.70	\$655	6
7	ALLOY ®	A23E36	E3	2.3	64.6	9	11.00	\$646	9
8	ASGROW ®	AG24XF4	XF	2.4	67.7	4	9.80	\$677	4
9	ALLOY ®	A25E36	E3/SR	2.5	66.5	5	12.70	\$665	5
10	ASGROW ®	AG26XF4	XF	2.6	71.8	2	11.60	\$718	2
11	PIONEER ®	P26Z78E	E3	2.6	65.1	8	13.70	\$651	8
12	ASGROW ®	AG27XF3	XF	2.7	76.3	1	21.20	\$763	1

Unit of Measure: Yield (Bushels(60#) per Acre at 13 Percent Moisture), Moisture % (Percent), Gross Revenue (\$10/Bushels(60#) per Acre at 13 Percent Moisture).



2025 Corn Individual Trial Report

Iowa - Kossuth County



Trial Averages

Yield
248.2

Moisture %
15.6

Gross Revenue
\$980

Field Information

Set Planting Date
05/09/2025

Harvest Date
10/08/2025

Tillage Type
Conventional or Intensive or Deep Tillage
(<30% Crop Residue)

Previous Crop
Soybean

Row Spacing
30.00 Inches

Irrigation
No

Number of Rows
6

Planting Rate
36000

Soil Texture
Loam

Entry Order	Product Brand	Product Name	Traits	Relative Maturity	Yield	Yield Rank	Moisture %	Gross Revenue	Gross Revenue Rank	Grain Test Weight
1	DEKALB ®	DKC098-88RIB	VT4PRIB	98	257.7	3	14.0	\$1,031	3	
2	DEKALB ®	DKC099-11RIB	VT2PRIB	99	263.5	2	14.7	\$1,054	1	
3	DEKALB ®	DKC099-59RIB	SSPRIB	99	251.8	8	14.6	\$1,007	6	
4	PIONEER ®	P9955V	VORCEED/ENLIST	99	238.0	16	14.6	\$952	14	
5	DEKALB ®	DKC100-21RIB	VT2PRIB	100	236.5	17	15.1	\$945	17	
6	DEKALB ®	DKC101-33RIB	SSPRIB	101	255.0	6	14.4	\$1,020	4	
7	DEKALB ®	DKC102-13RIB	VT4PRIB	102	252.4	7	14.3	\$1,010	5	
8	DEKALB ®	DKC102-28RIB	TRERIB	102	244.1	13	14.3	\$976	10	
9	DEKALB ®	DKC103-63RIB	SSPRIB	103	243.7	14	16.9	\$947	16	
10	DEKALB ®	DKC104-08RIB	VT4PRIB	104	247.1	10	14.8	\$988	7	
11	DEKALB ®	DKC104-14RIB	SSPRIB	104	246.9	11	15.7	\$977	9	
12	DEKALB ®	DKC105-33RIB	SSPRIB	105	245.0	12	15.6	\$971	12	
13	DEKALB ®	DKC56-26RIB	TRERIB	106	265.4	1	16.0	\$1,046	2	
14	DEKALB ®	DKC106-98RIB	VT4PRIB	106	256.1	4	18.3	\$974	11	
15	DEKALB ®	DKC107-11RIB	SSPRIB	107	242.7	15	16.5	\$949	15	
16	DEKALB ®	DKC107-69RIB	TRERIB	107	255.5	5	17.5	\$984	8	
17	DEKALB ®	DKC108-17RIB	TRERIB	108	228.4	19	16.0	\$900	19	
18	DEKALB ®	DKC108-64RIB	SSPRIB	108	234.8	18	15.3	\$935	18	
19	DEKALB ®	DKC110-10RIB	SSRIB	110	250.3	9	18.0	\$956	13	

Unit of Measure: Yield (Bushels(56#)/Acre at 15 Percent Moisture), Moisture % (Percent), Grain Test Weight (Pounds/Bushel), Gross Revenue (\$4/Bushels(56#)/Acre at 15 Percent Moisture and drying cost of \$0.06 per point of moisture over yield reporting moisture).



2025 Corn Individual Trial Report

Iowa - Kossuth County



Trial Averages

Yield
261.6

Moisture %
18.1

Gross Revenue
\$997

Field Information

Set Planting Date
05/04/2025

Harvest Date
10/03/2025

Tillage Type
Conventional or Intensive or Deep Tillage
(<30% Crop Residue)

Previous Crop
Soybean

Row Spacing
30.00 Inches

Irrigation
No

Number of Rows
8

Planting Rate
34000

Soil Texture
Clay Loam

Entry Order	Product Brand	Product Name	Traits	Relative Maturity	Yield	Yield Rank	Moisture %	Gross Revenue	Gross Revenue Rank	Grain Test Weight
1	DEKALB ®	DKC096-96RIB	VT4PRIB	96	259.4	13	15.3	\$1,033	3	
2	DEKALB ®	DKC098-88RIB	VT4PRIB	98	250.0	20	15.8	\$988	13	
3	DEKALB ®	DKC099-11RIB	VT2PRIB	99	270.1	4	16.5	\$1,056	2	
4	DEKALB ®	DKC099-59RIB	SSPRIB	99	258.5	15	17.1	\$1,001	11	
5	DEKALB ®	DKC100-21RIB	VT2PRIB	100	255.3	17	15.6	\$1,012	6	
6	DEKALB ®	DKC101-33RIB	SSPRIB	101	264.4	7	17.0	\$1,026	4	
7	DEKALB ®	DKC102-28RIB	TRERIB	102	258.6	14	17.0	\$1,003	10	
8	DEKALB ®	DKC103-63RIB	SSPRIB	103	265.2	6	18.1	\$1,011	7	
9	PIONEER ®	P04511V	VORCEED/ENLIST	104	251.6	19	17.4	\$970	17	
10	DEKALB ®	DKC104-08RIB	VT4PRIB	104	256.9	16	17.2	\$994	12	
11	DEKALB ®	DKC104-14RIB	SSPRIB	104	261.1	10	17.5	\$1,005	9	
12	DEKALB ®	DKC105-33RIB	SSPRIB	105	254.6	18	19.0	\$957	19	
13	DEKALB ®	DKC56-26RIB	TRERIB	106	277.5	1	18.2	\$1,057	1	
14	PIONEER ®	P10625V	VORCEED/ENLIST	110	264.3	8	20.7	\$967	18	
15	DEKALB ®	DKC106-98RIB	VT4PRIB	106	276.1	2	19.9	\$1,023	5	
16	DEKALB ®	DKC107-11RIB	SSPRIB	107	259.8	12	20.7	\$950	20	
17	DEKALB ®	DKC107-69RIB	TRERIB	107	265.8	5	20.2	\$980	14	
18	DEKALB ®	DKC108-17RIB	TRERIB	108	260.4	11	19.2	\$976	16	
19	DEKALB ®	DKC108-64RIB	SSPRIB	108	249.3	21	19.0	\$937	21	
20	DEKALB ®	DKC109-71RIB	SSPRIB	109	261.6	9	19.2	\$980	14	
21	DEKALB ®	DKC110-10RIB	SSRIB	110	272.6	3	20.1	\$1,007	8	

Unit of Measure: Yield (Bushels(56#)/Acre at 15 Percent Moisture), Moisture % (Percent), Grain Test Weight (Pounds/Bushel), Gross Revenue (\$4/Bushels(56#)/Acre at 15 Percent Moisture and drying cost of \$0.06 per point of moisture over yield reporting moisture).



2025 Corn Individual Trial Report

Minnesota - Nobles County



Trial Averages

Yield
248.9

Moisture %
15.7

Gross Revenue
\$979

Field Information

Set Planting Date
04/16/2025

Harvest Date
10/08/2025

Tillage Type
Conventional or Intensive or Deep Tillage
(<30% Crop Residue)

Previous Crop
Soybean

Row Spacing
30.00 Inches

Irrigation
No

Number of Rows
8

Planting Rate
35000

Soil Texture
Clay Loam

Entry Order	Product Brand	Product Name	Traits	Relative Maturity	Yield	Yield Rank	Moisture %	Gross Revenue	Gross Revenue Rank	Grain Test Weight
1	DEKALB ®	DKC098-88RIB	VT4PRIB	98	249.0	8	12.8	\$996	5	
2	DEKALB ®	DKC099-59RIB	SSPRIB	99	253.7	5	13.1	\$1,015	3	
3	DEKALB ®	DKC100-21RIB	VT2PRIB	100	249.5	7	14.9	\$998	4	
4	DEKALB ®	DKC101-33RIB	SSPRIB	101	255.3	3	14.5	\$1,021	2	
5	DEKALB ®	DKC102-13RIB	VT4PRIB	102	243.6	13	13.6	\$974	9	
6	DEKALB ®	DKC103-63RIB	SSPRIB	103	243.0	14	15.5	\$965	13	
7	DEKALB ®	DKC104-08RIB	VT4PRIB	104	246.6	10	15.0	\$986	6	
8	DEKALB ®	DKC104-14RIB	SSPRIB	104	241.8	15	16.0	\$953	15	
9	PIONEER ®	P0404Q	QROME	104	246.2	11	15.7	\$974	9	
10	DEKALB ®	DKC106-98RIB	VT4PRIB	106	245.7	12	15.8	\$971	11	
11	DEKALB ®	DKC107-69RIB	TRERIB	107	257.1	2	15.4	\$1,022	1	
12	DEKALB ®	DKC108-17RIB	TRERIB	108	249.0	8	17.1	\$965	13	
13	DEKALB ®	DKC108-64RIB	SSPRIB	108	226.1	16	15.7	\$895	16	
14	DEKALB ®	DKC109-71RIB	SSPRIB	109	254.7	4	17.5	\$981	8	
15	DEKALB ®	DKC110-10RIB	SSRIB	110	253.2	6	18.0	\$967	12	
16	DEKALB ®	DKC112-35RIB	SSPRIB	112	268.4	1	20.6	\$983	7	

Unit of Measure: Yield (Bushels(56#)/Acre at 15 Percent Moisture), Moisture % (Percent), Grain Test Weight (Pounds/Bushel), Gross Revenue (\$/Bushels(56#)/Acre at 15 Percent Moisture and drying cost of \$0.06 per point of moisture over yield reporting moisture).

Additional Resources:

[ISU Corn Drydown Calculator](#)

Resources available for harvest:

[Reducing Harvest Losses in Corn and Soybeans](#)

[Harvest Safety Tips](#)

[Grain Storage for Corn and Soybean](#)

[Grain Bin Safety](#)

[Considering Harvest Loss, Discounts and Drying Costs](#)

[Grain Yield Monitor Calibration](#)

[How Corn Standability Affects Harvest Plans](#)

[Corn Management during Grain Fill and Harvest](#)

[Harvesting Down Corn](#)

[Corn Stalk Rots and Managing Lodging Issues](#)



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Picture of the Week



New DEKALB DKC107-69 from the combine cab – intactness and late season stalks are outstanding on this hybrid.